



A River Runs to It



by **Christopher Timm**
Executive Director

Photo credit: Tim Greenway

Maritime museums often cast their gaze towards the open ocean, lured by the salt air and the horizon. And Maine Maritime Museum understandably has devoted considerable attention to the global seas. After all, Maine ships and their crews sailed to nearly every port in the world—whether Liverpool, Havana, Livorno, Honolulu, Calcutta, or Yokohama. These routes linked goods, ideas, cultures, and people across great distances.

But there are also Maine's inland waterways, and there are a few reasons why we can't overlook them in our mission and storytelling.

The museum's headwaters include William Baker's *A Maritime History of Bath, Maine and the Kennebec River Region*. This book, central to the founding of the museum, underscores the profound influence of the river since our beginning. And Maine's lakes and rivers have formed highlights of our collection since our early days. One of the largest watercraft in our collection—a 33-foot-long logging bateau found near The Forks, at the confluence of the Kennebec and Dead Rivers, was acquired in 1968. Bateaux like this were developed for log drives, which harnessed rivers to transport thousands of tons of logs from inland forests to sawmills nearer the coast. Another early acquisition was our 19th-century gunning float—essentially a floating hunting blind—used at Merrymeeting Bay, an inland confluence of six rivers which has drawn duck hunters for millennia.

Inland lakes and rivers have starred, or made cameos, in our exhibits. Our special exhibition in 2016, *Meeting the Boat: Steam Travel Along Maine Waters*, featured the surprisingly extensive infrastructure ready to transport visitors on Moosehead Lake, aboard steamers like the *Marguerite*. In 2019, *Frozen Kingdom: Commerce & Pleasure in the Maine Winter* explored the wealth and political clout that shrewd “ice kings” built by harvesting river ice along the Penobscot and Kennebec. And every visitor who enters our museum enters through the Anderson Arrival Plaza, which features a map of the Kennebec River—from its origin in Moosehead Lake all the way to the Atlantic.

And of course, practically, we should be self-aware that we are a maritime museum not on the ocean, but instead on a river, 12 miles inland.

It would be silly for us only to look downriver.

For as much as lobsters and lighthouses are synonymous with Maine, one only needs to glance at an L.L.Bean catalog to understand that bug spray, plaid, and many-pocketed vests play an equal role, and that Sebago, Rangeley, Moosehead, and the other 6,000 lakes and ponds equally define Maine's iconic relationship with water.

Our recent exhibition *Upta Camp* explores the rise of Maine's sporting and leisure camp tradition and how the state's inland waterways shaped its popularity. Guidebooks and magazines proclaimed the serenity and abundance in the Maine woods, especially in the Rangeley and Moosehead lakes regions, and soon “headin' upta camp” was a popular pastime. “Camp,” like most words, ranges in meaning depending on whom you ask, and when. To some, “camp” was a remote lakeside tent. To Harold Marsh Sewall, a prominent member of Bath's preeminent shipbuilding family, “camp” was an oceanside complex on Small Point, renovated by the renowned architect and Shingle Style savant John Calvin Stevens.

The story extends beyond one simply of tourism and recreation. Iconic images of Maine's lakes and rivers, like a red Old Town canoe or a vested fly-fisher, also raise discussions on the appropriation of indigenous knowledge and the rights of indigenous sovereignty. The Penobscot Nation and the Trust for Public Land recently announced a plan to return nearly 30,000 acres in Maine to the tribe, a move towards restoring ancestral lands that feature more than 4,000 acres of wetlands and 53 miles of streams

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An intrepid youngster at our brand-new Vacation Week Camp visits the Ropework demonstration area. What kinds of knots can you tie? What kinds of knots do you find in the world?

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Current Exhibits

Lost and Found: Sounds of the Maine Coast
by **Dianne Ballon** | February 9 – November 30, 2024

A collaboration between Dianne Ballon and the museum that investigates the significant role of sound in maritime environments. The exhibition will encourage visitors to think critically about the soundscapes they encounter along Maine's coast and how they contribute to them.

Upta Camp | April 5, 2024 – November 2, 2025 *Extended*

Maine camps are as much a tradition as they are a place; the embodiment of leisure and sport. But most importantly, Maine camps are an immense cultural resource deeply intertwined with the state's natural resources. This exhibition will investigate the rise of Maine's sporting and leisure camp tradition and how the state's inland waterways have contributed to its popularity.



Maine Maritime Museum connects people to the past, present, and future of Maine's waterways and their global reach.

Rhumb Line

A line on the earth's surface which intersects all meridians and parallels of latitude at the same angle. A line of constant course is a rhumb line.

Around the Museum



Last fall, Maine Maritime Museum commissioned our own mascot: Splash, the Friendly Sea Monster. Splash co-hosts our free monthly Story Time events, made possible by the support of Island Treasure Toys and Pitter Patter, Inc. It's been so much fun to have so many parents and caregivers bring their small children!



Grace Acton, one of our 2023 summer interns, is shown here in our recently upgraded imaging center, demonstrating the workflow for imaging an item from the collection. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



We are excited to introduce the very first Green Teens cohort! As part of a four-week internship, these students from Mt. Ararat High School, Morse High School, and Wayfinder School worked together to design a public awareness campaign on a local environmental topic of their choice!

American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds received from the United States Department of Education support the implementation of this project. The project has an award totaling \$6.6 million dollars of which 100% is federally funded and directly attributed to project implementation. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by the USDOE or the U.S. Government.



Dr. Tony Sutton of University of Maine, a Passamaquoddy citizen, joined us last fall for an informal discussion as part of our *SeaChange* series to examine ways local ecological and indigenous knowledge can better inform environmental solutions.

Spotlight: Member Benefits



by **Rebecca Roche**
Chief Advancement Officer

Q: What are some of the benefits of being a member of Maine Maritime Museum, and what are some of the perks if you upgrade?

A: There are tons of reasons to become a member: first and foremost, you get to come in for free anytime you want, year-round, but our *Rhumb Line* subscribers know that; this is a publication for members!

Specifically at Sustaining (\$150/year) and above, you actually get to bring guests here and it's a great benefit for those of us who have a rotating cast of friends and family who come to stay in the summer. Then there is the North American Reciprocal Museum membership (NARM) benefit that has been really popular with our members at Sustaining and above. Your NARM membership allows free or discounted admission to thousands of museums across North America. Anecdotally, our members are interested in travel and exploring other museums, even locally here in Maine.

We also recently added the benefit that you can come to the Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library (by appointment) and access both Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com for free—it's a great resource for curious people to do informal or genealogical research without having to pay for subscriptions.

Of course, there's also a 10% discount when you shop our store in person and online. We can't wait for everyone to see the new *Upta Camp* merchandise Shana Jaques, Store Manager and Buyer, has been working on.

Q: How did your academic career prepare you to become a museum professional?

A: I never really liked history until I had one great U.S. History teacher in high school. It was a light switch—I fell in love with the patterns, the stories, everything, and I majored in history. But I didn't know for sure that I wanted to work in a museum—I also considered going into nursing!

Then, I landed a summer job at Pejepscot History Center in Brunswick, loved it, and decided to go onto graduate school to focus on museums and public culture.

At the time, I hadn't been to Maine Maritime Museum in probably 20 years. For a class at University of Southern Maine's American and New England Studies Master's program, I critiqued a Coast Guard exhibit here and it was interesting—when a museum like this is in your backyard, you just didn't think to go. The program at USM helped me look at museums in my area in a more concrete way than I had before.

And that's part of the reason why we're now actively trying to shift to engaging more of the community—to welcome locals who may not have been here or haven't been in years. We've also intentionally broadened our scope of exhibitions with *SeaChange* and *Cotton Town*, for example, to bring in more people. We love our maritime historians and our boat aficionados, but we hope to offer more for the casual museum goer as well.



Once again, we're gifting our members a free 1-hour Lighthouse & Nature Cruise anytime before July 1! Upgrade to any other cruise above by paying the difference. Contact Debbie at 207-443-1316 x340 or seybold@maritimeme.org to book now! Visit MaineMaritimeMuseum.org/Cruises for more information and the cruise schedule.



Our volunteer bartenders Jeff Tarbox and Carolyn Ferraro, serving wine curated by Now You're Cooking in front of the Tugboat Pilot House Replica at a member's only reception. Here, we are celebrating the opening of *Lost and Found: Sounds of the Maine Coast* by Dianne Ballon.

Q: Anything else you'd like to mention while we're here?

A: We commissioned a research study a few years ago that found that the museum is a huge economic driver in this region. Not only does Maine Maritime Museum put millions of dollars into the local economy, we learned the visitors who come to this museum spend more money and spend more time in Maine than do visitors to any other museum in the state.

So we really are very lucky to have such a great reputation, great marketing that puts the word out there that people not only want to come here, but they want to come back year after year. And of course, we are so thankful for our donors and members and supporters.



by Kurt Spiridakis
Director of Boatbuilding

Shop Projects

Five Islands Skiff

Progress continues on the new build of a Five Islands skiff, a pleasure rowboat from the turn of the 20th century. These were designed for and used primarily by summer residents of Malden Island, a stone’s throw from the Five Islands wharf in Georgetown. Boatbuilder Fred Rittal and his son, both of the Five Islands area, built 15–20 of these utilitarian and elegant round bottom rowboats in the early 1900s. The cottage owners of Malden Island needed them for transport to shore and nearby islands. Rittal’s boats had the reputation of being well-built and safe, and many homes on the island owned two of these skiffs.



The Five Islands skiff in progress in the Boatshop. How gorgeous!

The watercraft collection contains one Five Islands skiff, the 12’ model, donated by Mr. Warren C. Lane, Jr. in 1981. Boatshop volunteers are building a reproduction of the 14’ version, courtesy of plans from Mystic Seaport Museum. Visitors can see this work in action in the Boatshop and the Watercraft Restoration Center, where volunteers are completing the backbone of a second skiff.

Flat Bottom Skiffs

Discovery Boatbuilding students are building nine skiffs this winter and spring. Currently, students are completing the hull and attaching side and bottom planks. After many years of planning and good fortune, we can now say 100% of the materials used in the student-built boats come from Maine-grown timber (much of it harvested by Boatshop staff and volunteers). Everything is all milled,

Malden Island was initially called Parsons Island until the latter half of the 19th century, because it was owned by a group of ministers from Malden, Massachusetts. Summertime on the island offered an idyllic escape from the Boston area, and the Five Islands skiff was the conduit for fishing, rowing, and general island exploration during a Maine summer. Rittal built the skiffs in three sizes: 10, 12, and 14 feet.



Snow won’t keep these Discovery Boatbuilding students from learning about utilizing local resources at the museum’s sawmill.

dried, and machined on site. This deliberate choice is based on two factors: locally sourced trees are less resource-intensive, and it is imperative that students and visitors understand it is still possible and pragmatic to build boats with what is available locally.

In some ways, this breaks with the realities of the shipyards of old. Many of the great schooners and ships built at Percy and Small and adjoining shipyards in the 19th and early 20th century contained timber from the South and/or West Coast of the United States—yellow pine for planking and Douglas fir for spars, for example. So while the decision to use Maine species in all parts of our small wooden boats may not mirror the historic shipbuilding done on site, it is consistent with *small* boatbuilding in the state over the last 500 years.

A River Runs to It *Continued from page one*

and rivers in the Penobscot River watershed. Indigenous knowledge has played a leading role in ecological renewal of inland waterways, including dam removals that have begun to restore migration paths for alewives and salmon. Access to Maine’s freshwater remains an environmental justice issue, including ongoing efforts to ensure the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik has equitable access to safe, clean water.

Exploring stories of Maine’s lakes and rivers alongside global seafaring highlights our commitment to connecting people to a larger narrative of Maine’s waterways. It is a narrative that enriches our understanding of Maine’s identity, connecting past, present, and future and the serene waters of our lakes with the vast expanse of the ocean.

So next time you join us at the museum and are enjoying the banks of the Kennebec River, please be sure to draw your attention to the right and left. Downriver and upriver.

Crafting Vacationland: Early Souvenir Ceramics of Maine



by Sarah Timm
Director of Education

Rusticators and artists of the Industrial Revolution escaped to the “unspoiled” beauty of Maine searching for rest and inspiration. By the late 19th century, a new market emerged as entrepreneurs worked to preserve—or perhaps design—Maine’s new image as America’s Vacationland. The history of Maine’s evolution into a recreational paradise and its ongoing legacy is a complex story; one that intersects with the limitation or removal of indigenous access to traditional homelands, natural resource management, and a tension between authentic versus stereotypical visions of Maine and the people who live here. A small cobalt blue ceramic vase in our collection provides a window into Maine’s early history as it began to capitalize on this new visitor—the tourist.



Wheelock Company, manufactured in Germany, Portland Head Light Souvenir Vase, white porcelain transferware, 2.25" diameter x 3.25" height. Charles E. Burden Collection, 95.091.26.29. Maine Maritime Museum.

This vase, produced between 1894–1906, depicts Portland Head Light (built by order of George Washington in 1787), a critical navigational landmark for ships marking the entrance to Portland Harbor. The vase is comically small. Standing at approximately three inches in height and two inches in diameter, this object begs the question—who was this vase produced for and why?

Porcelain tableware and knickknacks were a popular form of tourist souvenir around the turn of the 20th century, when Maine was entering its heyday of early tourism. The small size rendered the souvenir easily transportable and cheaper to produce, and therefore purchase.

The maker’s mark on the bottom of the vase reads, “Wheelock.” The Wheelock family lived in Wisconsin and started a regional business selling porcelain products prior to the 1860s. Upon inheriting the family company, Charles Wheelock recognized the growing popularity of the domestic souvenir trade and expanded his market. The Wheelocks employed up to 30 salesmen who would travel to popular American tourist destinations with a catalog showing hundreds of different ceramic options from which a merchant could choose to sell in their

store. Once a deal is made, the merchant could customize their order by providing an image or inscription they wished to be added to encourage sales. Wheelock then outsourced manufacturing to European factories, who would transfer the image in the manufacturing process. This early model of mass production marks the beginning of commercial globalization. Soon after, the Wheelock company became the largest distributor of souvenir ceramics in the country.

What was at one time just another light on the horizon, Portland Head Light became a must-visit tourist destination and remains the most recognizable lighthouse in Maine. So did tourist traffic inspire the souvenir vase or the other way around? Either way, this ceramic vase marks a transitional moment in Maine history. New technologies such as steamships and railroads made Maine ever more accessible. With that, landmarks such as Portland Head Light, and the perception of Maine itself, took on new meanings to new audiences.

Interested in learning how to incorporate this object into K–5 classrooms? Check out our free Education Learning Resources and other object-based lesson plans, available for download at MaineMaritimeMuseum.org/Learning-Resources

Are you a lighthouse enthusiast?

Make sure to stop by *Lost and Found: Sounds of the Maine Coast* by Dianne Ballon to hear the Portland Head Light foghorn and many more iconic sounds from the coast of Maine.



Dianne Ballon’s recording set up at Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth.

Support the Business Partners that Support
Maine Maritime Museum As of March 11, 2024

Mainsail (\$15,000+) The Reny Charitable Foundation	Rudder (\$500) A.G.A. Correa & Son Anna's Water's Edge Restaurant Bamforth Marine Bill Dodge Auto Group Bixby & Co. Blue Elephant Events & Catering Cool as A Moose Data Defined Eaton Peabody Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott – Brunswick Freeport G&E Roofing Co., Inc. Island Treasure Toys John G. Morse & Sons, LLC Kennebec Equipment Rental Lisa-Marie's Made in Maine Maine Coast Fishermen's Association Maine Marine Rigging, LLC. Meadow Park Development Corp. Mid Coast Hospital Midcoast Federal Credit Union Montsweag Restaurant New England Tent and Awning Norway Savings Bank Now You're Cooking <i>Points East</i> Proforma Marketing Essentials Residence Inn Bath/Brunswick Royal River Boatyard & Repair Sabre Yachts & Back Cove Yachts <i>Schooner Eastwind</i> Sisters Gourmet Deli Springer's Jewelers The Landing School The Dolphin Marina & Restaurant The Highlands Thomaston Place Auction Galleries, Inc.
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New and upgraded Business Partners are listed in **RED**.
Visit MaineMaritimeMuseum.org for a full list of Business Partners.

Spotlight: Free Admission Weekends



by **Andrea Headley**
Development Officer



For the last two winters, Bath Savings has generously sponsored free weekends at Maine Maritime Museum. Free admission helps us achieve our vision of becoming a community hub and year-round destination by creating equitable experiences for area residents to become immersed in our art, history, and cultural exhibitions at the museum. Bath Savings is all about providing and promoting opportunities for the community!

The numbers show that the initiative has been a huge success! A very quick comparison of weekend museum attendance shows that before this initiative, we saw an average of less than 200 visitors in January and February *combined*! During Free Admission Weekends, we've had up to 1,300 weekend visitors a month—what an impact.

The winter is a great time to take a closer look at the exhibits in our maritime history building without the swelling summer crowds; come by, take in some maritime art, learn a bit of history, or peruse a new exhibit. The staff at the museum—and Bath Savings—will continue to be on the lookout for future ways to provide safe spaces with low to no barriers for everyone in the community. We look forward to seeing you at the museum!



Here is a close-up of a Maine fishing village by Colby Adolphsen (@chorangebricks on Instagram). Colby graciously loaned his LEGO display to us during Free Admission Weekends to have something extra special for our visitors to come see. Photo: Colby Adolphsen.

Honor/Memorial Gifts October 5, 2023 – March 13, 2024

In Honor of Raymond C. Egan
Nancy Kollisch and Jeff Pressman

In Honor of Beth Holmberg and Sarah Elkind
Kenneth Elkind

In Honor of Laura Burns
Richard and Leslie Orne

In Honor of Lincoln and Allison Paine
Cindy Lang

In Honor of Melissa Wood Brewster
Elise Von Koschembahr

In Honor of Wallis Pierce
Tom and Lisa Hammett
Jonathan and Dorothy Hasson

In Memory of Barbara A. Potter
William D. Potter

In Memory of Charles A. Orem
Ellen Asherman

In Memory of Capt. Harry W. Konkel
Stephen and Joanne Caulfield

In Memory of Jean Colburn Ierardi
Laura Pugliese

In Memory of Lawrence Pixley
Deborah and Joseph Drake

In Memory of Louis A. “Sandy” Peterson
Samuel Carr

In Memory of Ned Harding
Laurie Harding and Peter Mason
Chip and Madelaine Harding

In Memory of Nicholas S. Sewall
Robert Bettigole
Tania and John Chandler
Elaine Edwards
Michelle Grainger
Martin and Elizabeth Lakeman
Elijah and Virginia Marentette
John and Betsey Morse
Priscilla and Eric Smith
Elena D. Vandervoort

In Memory of Roger D. Hewson
Paul and Mimi Aldrich
Geoffrey Blum
Carol and Richard Davis
Harriette and Peter Griffin
Nina Monaco
Bruce and Susan Saunders
Peter and Ellen Wood
Sabre Yachts & Back Cove Yachts

In Memory of Stanley R. Goodnow
Priscilla Bill

In Memory of Weston D. Clement
Ferdinand Thun

In Memory of William F. King, Jr.
Philip and Nancy Brackett

Save the Date: Friday, September 20

A Night with Dr. Robert D. Ballard



Maine Maritime Museum is thrilled to offer a rare opportunity to meet and hear from Dr. Robert D. Ballard, one of the most accomplished and well-known deep-sea explorers in the world. Adventurer, expeditioner, and oceanographer, he is best known for his 1985 discovery of the *Titanic*, in addition to many other shipwrecks. One of his most important discoveries was of hydrothermal vents and “black smokers” in the Galapagos Rift and East Pacific Rise along with their exotic life forms living off the energy of the Earth through a process now called chemosynthesis.

For more information, including tickets and sponsorship, contact Rebecca at 207-443-1316 ext. 327 or roche@maritimeme.org.

Did you know?

Maine Maritime Museum is a proud member of:

- American Alliance of Museums
- Bath-Brunswick Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Belfast Chamber of Commerce
- Council of American Maritime Museums
- Main Street Bath (Downtown Association)
- Maine Archives & Museums
- Maine Association of Nonprofits
- Maine Tourism Association
- National Association for Catering and Events
- North American Reciprocal Museums
- New England Museum Association
- Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber
- Visit Freeport
- Visit Portland

Daily Lighthouse & Nature Cruises

The best way to enjoy Midcoast Maine’s beautiful scenery is from the water. Board our tour boat *Merrymeeting* for one of our daily narrated cruises. Enjoy the area’s abundant wildlife, see lobstermen at work hauling traps, and get an up-close look at up to 10 of Maine’s most iconic lighthouses—all in one trip!

Cruise Schedule	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Lighthouse & Nature Cruise (1 hr.)	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2
Lighthouse & Nature Cruise (2 hrs. M/W or 3 hrs. T/Th)	3:30	3:30	3:30	3:30			
The Bath Iron Works Story: By Land and Sea (2.5 hrs.)	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:30		
Lighthouse Lovers (4 hrs.)						3:30	
Merrymeeting Bay/ Special Trips							3:30

For the complete schedule, including our special Sunday & Fall schedules, head to our website: MaineMaritimeMuseum.org/Cruises

Upcoming Events

Boatshop Workshops

Build an Adirondack Chair

July 20 | 10:00 am – 3:30 pm | \$290; members receive a \$58 discount

The iconic Adirondack chair, built from lightweight and durable cedar, goes together quickly and easily under the supervision of Boatshop staff. Hundreds of these chairs have been built at the museum by all ages and skill levels, so no experience is necessary. Just bring a lunch—or grab a bite to eat nearby—because all tools and jigs are provided for this one-day class.

Build a Fireside Stool

July 24 & 25 | 3:00 – 6:00 pm | \$130; members receive a \$30 discount

Our three-legged fireside stool is simple, yet elegant. It’s a great introduction to woodworking—in fact, it is the first project every student undertakes in our Discovery Boatbuilding program. Comprised of three octagonal legs that are fastened with wedges, kerfed through, this stool is a great introduction to boatbuilding techniques for folks without the bandwidth to build and take home a 15’ boat. No woodworking (or boatbuilding) experience necessary!

Build a Shaker Box

November 20 & 21 | 5:00 – 8:00 pm | \$140; members receive a \$30 discount

The Shakers were renowned for their traditional and simple furniture design and practical inventions (*the clothespin, anyone?*). We build nesting shaker boxes in the Boatshop because they are beautiful, handy, and employ techniques like steam bending and clinch nailing. Two evenings are all it takes to build three boxes from cherry and cedar. All materials are provided, and no experience is necessary for this accessible, yet challenging, class.

Build a Toboggan

December 11 & 18 | 5:00 – 8:00 pm | \$400 per group

This winter, join us in the Boatshop to build your own classic wooden toboggan! This class is open to five total groups of up to three people per group. Each group will build a 6’ – 8’ toboggan over two evenings using boatbuilding techniques like steam bending, riveting, and ropework. No experience is required. *This toboggan design meets specifications of the U.S. National Toboggan Championships held annually in Camden, Maine.*

Story Time with Splash, the Friendly Sea Monster

May 28, June 11, August 20, September 10, & October 8 | 10:00 – 10:30 am

FREE thanks to the support of Pitter Patter, Inc. and Island Treasure Toys

Plus: all aboard the *Merrymeeting* for one of our special Mini Mariners 30-minute cruises at 11:00 am! Tickets are available in advance or day-of.

Our Favorite Annual Events

May 18 | Community Day

The official start of the season with free admission, discounted cruises, plus demonstrations, guided tours, & more from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm! Then, hop on Charlie the Trolley and catch even more fun downtown with Spring into Summer, presented by Main Street Bath.

July 26 | Maine Maritime Museum Annual Gala | 5:00 – 10:00 pm

Join us under the stars in the Percy & Small Shipyard for one incredible evening to celebrate Maine Maritime Museum and support everything we’ve mentioned in this issue & beyond! This is THE event of the summer and, as always, will feature live and silent auctions, music, dancing, dinner by Churchill Events, and a few surprises.

September 14 | Pints on the Pier | 4:00 – 7:30 pm

Our seventh annual beer fest and concert, with food trucks, lawn games, and a beautiful view of the sun setting on the Kennebec.

Free Lecture Series

Author Talk: Eric Jay Dolin, *Left for Dead*

Wednesday, May 15, 1:00 pm

Artist Talk: Dianne Ballon, *Lost and Found*

Friday, July 12, 12:00 pm

Author Talk: Ryan Brod, *Tributaries: Essays from Woods and Waters*

Thursday, August 1, 6:00 pm

Rozalia Project and *American Promise*: Education, Science and Data Cleanups in the Gulf of Maine and beyond! With Ashley Sullivan

Monday, August 5, 6:00 pm

Education Workshops

DIY Freeze-Dried Camp Meals Workshop

Saturday, June 15 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm | \$43; members receive a 20% discount

Hands-on workshop with Maine Food and Beverage Education Center on creating your own freeze-dried camp meals using local ingredients. Participants assemble two personalized camp meals to take home.

Maine Woods Foraging Workshop

Sunday, July 14 | 2:30 – 4:30 pm | \$38; members receive a 20% discount

Join natural forager, Rachel Alexandrou, on a museum plant walk to learn safe foraging practices and taste local foraged ingredients.



Overlooking the Emery Great Lawn on the south side of our campus is a great place to start a foraging walk!



by **Connie Hartley**
Volunteer Program Manager

Each season, visitors from around the country learn the story of the Percy & Small Shipyard on a 45-minute walking tour on the original site where the largest wooden schooner in North America, *Wyoming*, was built in 1909. Visitors are intrigued to hear how Captain Sam Percy and businessman Mr. Frank Small became successful shipbuilders at the tail-end of the Age of Sail, through the early 1900s.



Volunteer Joan Knight giving a modified Percy & Small tour indoors.

Visitors learn about the original buildings that stand within the shipyard and the work that took place within them. As the tour moves throughout the shipyard, visitors are introduced to the Blacksmith Shop where they observe the volunteer Blacksmiths in action, while learning about the many stages of shipbuilding. The original Blacksmith Shop was destroyed by fire in 1913 and is the one reproduction of the historic Percy & Small Shipyard.

The tour concludes underneath the *Wyoming* evocation where the tour guide shares the dramatic story of the original vessel’s construction and subsequent loss at sea.

Visitors of all ages find this tour to be both educational and entertaining:
“Absolutely would recommend the tour. Our guide was great and we had a grand time!”
“109 miles of caulking in one ship—here to Massachusetts—that was one big ship!”
“It’s really great to have an actual live person explain how these ships were built. The process is amazing...”

Our current volunteer tour guide team consists of 26 individuals, with some team members providing tours to our visitors for over 30 years. All of our tour guides share in the same passion of place-based storytelling. Tour guide trainees invest 25 hours of training time and are key to keeping the Percy & Small story alive.

Due to the level of interest from our visitors and the need to provide a more accessible tour during inclement weather or for those with different mobility needs, we developed an indoor version of the Percy & Small tour, told through artifacts in our galleries.

We hope that you will join us this season and learn more about Percy & Small’s history!

Community Connections: The Hyde School

Volunteer Breakfast Welcomes Malcolm Gauld



Wanda Smith, Malcolm Gauld, Lincoln Paine, outgoing Board of Trustee Chair, and Chris Timm.

On Wednesday, March 6, volunteers and staff gathered for breakfast to celebrate the beginning of our 2024 season. Over 100 were in attendance, including guest speaker Malcolm Gauld, Executive Director of the Hyde Institute, and Wanda Smith, Administrative Staff at Hyde School. The morning began with a brief welcome from Chris Timm, Executive Director and Connie Hartley, Volunteer Program Director.

Malcolm is a graduate of and has spent most of his career at Hyde, where he also held the position of President for 30 years before founding the Hyde Institute in 2018. Malcolm’s father Joseph Gauld founded Hyde in 1966. Malcolm shared the history of the property and how a magnificent mansion was transformed into a boarding school. Malcolm recently wrote a book titled *Culture by Design* where he explains “what culture is and why it matters.” To the group on site, he discussed a number of case studies—including Maine Maritime Museum—to show how strong mission statements can guide and strengthen an organization’s culture.

In January, museum staff were invited for a personal tour of the Hyde Mansion led by Charlie Mugford, Executive Director of Enrollment. The musuem staff especially enjoyed a peek at the first indoor pool in Maine!



Maine Maritime Museum staff pose for a photo during a tour of the Hyde Mansion.

A Journey Through Maine’s Coastal Soundscape



by Catherine Cyr
Associate Curator

Hundreds of harbors dot the Maine coastline. Some are quiet, while others are bustling. Harbors can be a place where individuals seek solace, a site to conduct business, and a picturesque setting to visit while on vacation. Boats are often pulling in and out, revving their engines, while fishermen unload their daily catches onto wharfs. Waves splash, always receding and then crashing back, rocking the moored boats. The wind lifts seagulls high into the air and catches the sails of Windjammers, sending them out to sea. Tourists stroll by snapping pictures and eating lobster rolls, all as the harbor master keeps a watchful eye over their domain. Faint in the distance is the sound of a bell buoy, ringing as it safely guides vessels back towards the harbor. This eclectic mix of environmental elements and human activity creates a specific soundscape that changes throughout the day and by season. To that end, each harbor has its own distinct sound.

Over the years, the Maine coast has seen shifts in its soundscape. Advancements in navigation and changes in industry have caused certain sounds to disappear or transform significantly. But even these “lost” sounds can be “found” again. In collaboration with sound artist Dianne Ballon, this new exhibit invites its audience to think critically about sound. Multiple listening stations allow visitors to explore a collection of field recordings taken along the coast of Maine, as well as recordings of museum objects which have not been actively used in many years. As visitors listen, they have the chance to read about Ballon’s experiences recording her innovative work, firsthand, and the history behind the use of sound on Maine’s waterways.

Since sound has always played an important role in Maine’s maritime environments, the museum has consistently collected sounding objects. This exhibition provided the first opportunity to operate some of these items in decades and reintroduce their long-lost sounds to the public. Objects ranging from brass whistles to speaking trumpets and ship bells are all well represented. Depending on their form, these objects have historically been used for communication, warning systems, and navigation between both vessels and mariners. They demonstrate the evolution of sounding objects used on or near the water and serve as a reminder that the sea was, and still can be, a dynamic and musical space.

Sound directly affects the way we interact with our environment, and as we live, work, and explore along the coast, we, too, become part of the soundscape. Sound also influences our individual and collective memories, and as Ballon’s recordings demonstrate, also connects us to history.

While some coastal sounds have been inaccessible, “lost,” or transformed in ways that have significantly altered our interaction with them, there are still creative ways to “find” them again. And there are plenty more sounds yet to be discovered.



Little Giant foghorn with black leather bellows, brass tacks on all edges, and chromed brass handle and whistle. The tag reads, “Little Giant, Mf’d by E. A. Gill, Gloucester Mass, Pat Pending, J. H. Rowe Co., General Agents, Gloucester Mass.” c.19th Century, 2015.037.



Catherine Cyr and Dianne Ballon carefully handling and producing sound from the Little Giant foghorn.

Recent Acquisition



by Kelly Page
Curator of Collections

Earlier this year, the museum added a piece of mourning art to our collection. This type of composition—featuring weeping willows, mourners, and monuments—was especially popular in the first half of the 19th century as a common form of folk art. These pieces are usually attributed to women with typical mediums being embroidery on silk or watercolor on paper.

The decedents memorialized on the monument are Captain Samuel Skolfield (1787–1826) and two of his children who perished in young adulthood within months of each other—Lettice (1812–1834) and Reed (1816–1834). Captain Skolfield died in the port of Old Point Comfort, Virginia while in command of the schooner *Brunswick*, a vessel that he also helped to build as a shipwright. His son, Reed, died at sea after falling ill on the schooner *Alcenus* while bound from Turks Island to North Carolina. The details of Lettice’s death remain unknown.

The Skolfields were from Brunswick and Harpswell and boasted an extensive family network of mariners, shipwrights, and merchants throughout its branches and across multiple generations. Their history is well-documented, most notably through the preservation of an ancestral home as a house museum (the Skolfield-Whittier House, preserved and managed by Pejepscot History Center) and a monograph published by Maine Maritime Museum, *A Singleness of Purpose: The Skolfields and their Ships*.

This piece of art has a few unique features that also raise questions. First, the background is a harbor scene. A serene natural setting or homestead is more common in mourning art. Is this harbor purely fiction or are there elements in the composition that match a real place? Second, the artist is identified through a prominent signature, Rebecah D. Given, when such pieces are rarely signed.



Mourning art memorializing Samuel, Reed, and Lettice Skolfield; Rebecah Dunning Given, c. 1835. Watercolor on paper, 2024.01, Museum Purchase, supported in part by Roger Grayson.

At this time, it is hard to say what her direct connection to this particular family-unit of Skolfields was. She is the same age as Lettice and perhaps they were dear friends? Or maybe it speaks to a tight-knit community that deeply felt losses occurring so closely together? Rebecah became a Skolfield herself in 1841 through marriage to a nephew of Captain Samuel, and her older sister had earlier married another nephew of the Captain. We may never find the answers to these questions, but we are sure this is a meaningful addition to the collection.

Win this Boat!



This sailing skiff was donated to the Boatshop in 2023, and museum volunteers lovingly restored the mahogany plywood and oak framing. The hull was painted Alerion green with a grey bottom. How gorgeous! A Sprit rig, this beautiful boat is ready to sail into the sunset. Two oars are included.

All proceeds from this sweepstakes support the museum’s Discovery Boatbuilding program, a hands-on, comprehensive wooden boatbuilding and woodworking program for local students. Be sure to stop by the Boatshop to see students building this year’s fleet! Enter at MaineMaritimeMuseum.org or stop by the museum to see it & enter in person. Last date to enter is October 26, 2024.

Join or Renew Your Membership online or complete and mail this form.

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I have also enclosed \$_____ as a contribution to help support the museum.

Please make check payable to Maine Maritime Museum and return to: 243 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530
Dues and other contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.